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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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S-E-C-R-E-T

50X1-HUM

COUNTRY USSR (Black Sea)

REPORT

SUBJECT Observations and Naval Vessel Sightings
at Odessa, Batumi, Novorossiysk, Poti,
Zhdanov, and Reni

DATE DISTR. 15 February 1960

NO. PAGES 2

REFERENCES

DATE OF
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SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

The following reports of observations at Novorossiysk, Poti, Reni, Odessa,
Batumi, and Zhdanov

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Att.No. Subject

1 An eight-page report,
of sightings at or near Zhdanov
and at Odessa. Zhdanov observations include: two
large naval vessels, a prohibited zone
extending seaward for 20 miles between Mys Chauda and Mys Kiz-Aul;
a possible cableway between Mys Kiz-Aul and Mys Takyl; an airfield
(possibly inactive) at Mys Yenikale; 40 to 50 very fast small craft
inshore between Mys Panagiya and Mys Tuzla; a minesweeper working
along Kosa Tuzla; and possible naval maneuvers near Kerch. At
Odessa, a submarine and troops parachuting
over water, were observed.

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2 A 15-page report,
on observations at Batumi.
Observations at Batumi include a cruiser, two possible
destroyers, several merchant and fishing vessels, a small shiggard,
fueling berths, a searchlight and a possible radar installation
on shore, and port security procedures. Possible naval maneuvers
off Novorossiysk and a 2,000-ton floating dock at Novorossiysk were
observed. At Novorossiysk,
the following vessels were observed: an "escort-type" naval vessel,
three identical "motor gunboats", pendant
two minesweepers,
three MTBs, and several merchant

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vessels, including the Soviet tanker VOLGONEFT. Annotated sketch maps of the harbor areas of Batumi and Novorossiysk are included.

- 3 A four-page [redacted] report, [redacted] on observations at Novorossiysk including port security controls, foreign merchant vessels, a 1,000-ton and a 20,000-ton floating dry dock, construction activities, and the local pay scale for laborers. An annotated sketch map of the harbor area of Novorossiysk is included. 50X1-HUM
- 4 A one-page [redacted] report containing fragmentary information on the port of Reni, including new quay construction based on observations [redacted] A sketch map of the harbor of Reni is included. 50X1-HUM
50X1-HUM
- 5 A one-page [redacted] report on the sighting at Novorossiysk [redacted] of two identical naval vessels [redacted] which were described as follows: 150 feet long, flush deck, a three-gun turret fore and aft, a square and low bridge, and a high conical tower aft. A sketch of one of these vessels is included. 50X1-HUM
- 6 A two-page [redacted] report, [redacted] on naval vessel sightings at Novorossiysk [redacted] had a flush deck, a square stern, a gun turret fore and aft, and a large bridge, atop which was a spherical-shaped object from which a downward-turned horizontal arm extended forward. [redacted] 50X1-HUM
50X1-HUM
- 7 A two-page report of naval vessel and seaplane sightings at Poti including: two possible RIGA-class escort vessels, three possible T-43-class minesweepers, and 20 seaplanes. [redacted] 50X1-HUM
- 8 A two-page report of naval vessel sightings at Poti [redacted] including two possible T-43-class minesweepers, and two possible RIGA-class escort vessels, [redacted] Two rough sketches, one locating a radar scanner on the mast of a T-43-class minesweeper and the other locating three radar scanners on the mast of a RIGA-class escort vessel, are included. 50X1-HUM
1. [redacted] Comment: From the sketch, [redacted] (sic) is probably a RIGA-class escort vessel. 50X1-HUM
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USSR: PORT OF ZHDANOV

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Naval Vessels, Helicopters

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Two large naval vessels, close in and heading west in column ahead, were observed [redacted] Vessels were seen

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[redacted] at Cape AIYA. From the size and general silhouette [redacted] judged them to be cruisers;

Shortly after sighting the two vessels, two large, twin-prop helicopters came from a point near Cape AIYA and moved seaward, that is, to the south.

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Prohibited Zones

The prohibited zone between Capes CHAUDA and KIZ AUL has been extended seaward to 20 miles from the former 11 miles. The boundary is marked by some large mooring buoys.

Observations along the Coast

Between Cape KIZ AUL and Cape TAKIL, there is a zone of shoals with reefs rising from the water. [redacted] observed two metal trellises on one of these reefs. The trellises were curved in the middle and almost touching at the top in a manner to form a very narrow arch. A cable ran from the end of each trellis to the land.

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Att. [redacted]

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This might have been a cableway, but there was no activity, no car on the cableway, and no men ashore or on the reef.

Air Field

[redacted] observed the air field at Cape YENIKALE [redacted]

[redacted] saw the upper part of some jet fighters and also the large aircraft - perhaps a four-motor [redacted]

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This aircraft [redacted]

[redacted] was not an operative aircraft but perhaps a facsimile used by [redacted] some aviation school nearby for training purposes. On the other hand, it might be a wooden model, some thing like the coastal batteries with wooden guns.

Naval Vessel Activity

[redacted] observed:

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40 or 50 very fast small craft inshore between Capes PANAGIYA and TUZLA (east coast of the entrance to the Kerch Channel) on a course of approximately 330°. They were in a formation of three lines, and [redacted]

[redacted] the hull was hidden by spray.

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Att: [REDACTED]

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two minesweepers with cables in the water, working along the TUZLA Bank on a course of 180°

one minesweeper underway in A-sweep, moving slowly north from a point about 3 miles south of the outer pilot buoy.

two motor fishing boats, or vessels with similarly shaped hulls, halted in Kerch Bay. They were flying the naval flag and had a superstructure covered by ^a curtain abaft the navigating bridge.

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PORT OF ODESSA

Naval Vessels

[REDACTED] sighted a submarine, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] moving on a course of 180° at about 4 miles east of the Reidovai mole.

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Parachute Troops Jump

[REDACTED] saw parachute troops jumping from about 1,000 meters into the sea east of the Reidovai mole and about 500 meters from the coast. Jumps were made by groups of 8 men (about 10 groups) with an interval of 15-30 minutes between jumps. Probably the same plane was used and this returned to base to load more men. The men were picked up by a naval vessel [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

Plane came from the north, and after the jump made a wide turn to the left to go to a landing at a field probably south of the city.

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MANEUVERS OF SOVIET NAVAL SQUADRON IN BLACK SEA

A Soviet naval squadron comprising five RIGA-class ships and three coast-guard vessels was observed proceeding column ahead in a south-westerly direction about 7 miles directly off the coast from NOVOROSSIIYSK

[redacted] associated artillery fire heard on the afternoon of the same day with the naval squadron mentioned.

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In the naval port of NOVOROSSIIYSK, [redacted] observed a floating dock of about 2,000 tons [redacted]

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USSR: PORT OF BATUNI, [redacted]

[Numbers in parentheses correspond to those on the attached sketch]

Naval Vessels in Port

Light-cruiser-type vessel at anchor in roadstead about one mile north of the lighthouse (1). Displacement about 5,000 tons; [redacted] over-all length, 160-180 meters; height forward, over 5 meters; height aft; over 3 meters. Single trellis-type mast, rising in part from the bridge and in part from the deck. Two funnels: one immediately aft the mast, average height, afterraked, with top sharply raked; the second funnel, about 15 meters aft of the first, vertical, narrow, of same

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Att. [REDACTED]

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height as forst but slightly less afterraked. Bow raked and slightly curved. Stern: modern, round, cruiser-type, and straight. Bridge: single bridge, without broken lines (senza taglio). Armament: two twin turrets forward and two aft; numerous installations of 12-mm and 20-mm AA machine guns. Two radar antennas, one, very large, with NEPTUN-type antenna having a parabolic reflector with rather close-meshed netting. Numerous radio telegraph whip antennas and HF antennas. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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Two destroyer-type ships moored at (2), near the head of the northern outer breakwater. [REDACTED] over-all length, 90 meters; height forward, 4 meters; height aft, 2-3 meters. Trellis-type or tripod mast rising immediately aft the navigating bridge. Two elliptical but narrow funnels, the first with rake aft of about 15 degrees; the second with rake aft of about 10 degrees. Sharply-raked straight bow; straight transom stern; bridge, without broken lines. At a little more than 10 meters from the extreme stern there was a small step of about 80 centimeters, perhaps a low deckhouse. Armament: two completely shielded single guns located on the sides forward of the bridge; an AA machine gun installation forward of the bridge and on a raised surface about 2 meters high; an AA machine gun installation on a small aft deckhouse about 2 meters high forward of the extreme stern; two twin torpedo tubes, arranged along the keel-line on a raised surface about one meter high, one at the center of the ship between the two funnels, and the other

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between the aft funnel and the deckhouse surmounted by the AA machine gun installation already mentioned; three depth charge chutes at the extreme stern, one along the keel-line and two at the ship's sides.

Two MTBs observed along the shore of the naval shipyard (3).

Merchantmen observed

A Soviet passenger ship; two Soviet freighters; and about 15 steel fishing trawlers, all moored at (4).

Naval shipyard

Located at (3). A small shipyard, comprising one medium-sized shed and a number of smaller ones, little mechanical equipment, and three or four slips for the launching of small craft.

Fuel-loading facilities

Five berths for tankers. At (5) there are 30 fuel outlets with the following diameters: one of 21 inches, one of 9 inches, and the remaining 28 of 8-6 inches and 4 inches.

Toluene and benzene are taken on through the 6-inch outlets.

Miscellaneous

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A long-range searchlight is located about 10 miles south of the port and another of the same kind about 10 or 12 miles north of the port.

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USSR: PORT OF NOVOROSIYSK

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Naval Vessels in Port

A corvette, [redacted] armed with a quadruple AA machine gun forward and another aft, and twin AA machine guns on the bridge and to port and to starboard on the deck; machineguns of 20-mm and 12-mm caliber.

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Three motor gunboats, [redacted] Bow: raked, bulbous, and slightly raised. Bridge: without broken lines. Mast: tripod, rising from the bridge; the crow's nest is located halfway between the bridge and the mast truck. One round funnel with a slight rake aft. Armament: a shielded AA gun on the keel-line forward; a similar AA gun on the keel-line aft; two 12-mm AA machine guns, one to starboard and the other to port, between the mast and the funnel; a 20-mm AA machine gun along the keel-line between the funnel and the AA gun aft. Special equipment: two radio whip antennas of the type rising from the bridge; a stationary frame aerial with movable coil for direction finding; naval detection radar antenna with plastic cover located on mast; three searchlights, one on the navigation bridge and two on the bridge wings. [redacted] was cruising back and forth in the NOVOROSIYSK roadstead [redacted]

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Two minesweepers [redacted] with (collapsible) equipment for magnetic sweeping on deck at the bow, and [normal] sweeping equipment, sweeps, cables, etc., at the stern. These vessels left the port [redacted]

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Three MTBs, [redacted] all armed with two

shielded twin AA machine guns along the keel-line, one at the bow and one at the stern; these were probably 20-mm machine guns. Each was also equipped with 48 depth charges arranged in four rows of 12 each.

Merchantmen in port

The Soviet motorship VOLGONIEV, two [redacted] tankers, a [redacted] steamer, a [redacted] steamer, and a [redacted] steamer.

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Description of port and urban areas

[The numbers correspond to those on the attached sketch]

1. Lumber loading zone. Work on extension of pier (1/a) under way.
2. Military zone, completely fenced in.
3. Barracks.
4. Two gates, with naval sentries.
5. Bridge.
6. Military zone; lies to the left of the road leading from the bridge (5) to the urban area.
7. Mooring area for naval vessels.
8. Large open space used as military sports field.
9. Naval barracks.
10. Small floating dock.
11. Pier for mooring of naval vessels.
12. Fish canning factory.
13. Mooring for fishing trawlers.

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14. Army barracks.

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15. Works yard; various floating stages for the laying of caissons
and cement blocks observed.

16. Large dry dock.

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[Redacted]

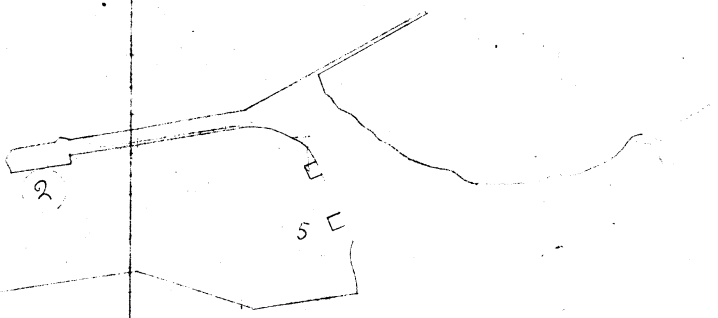
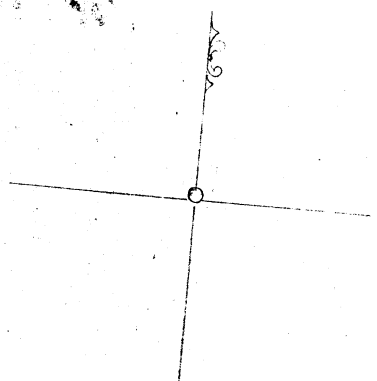
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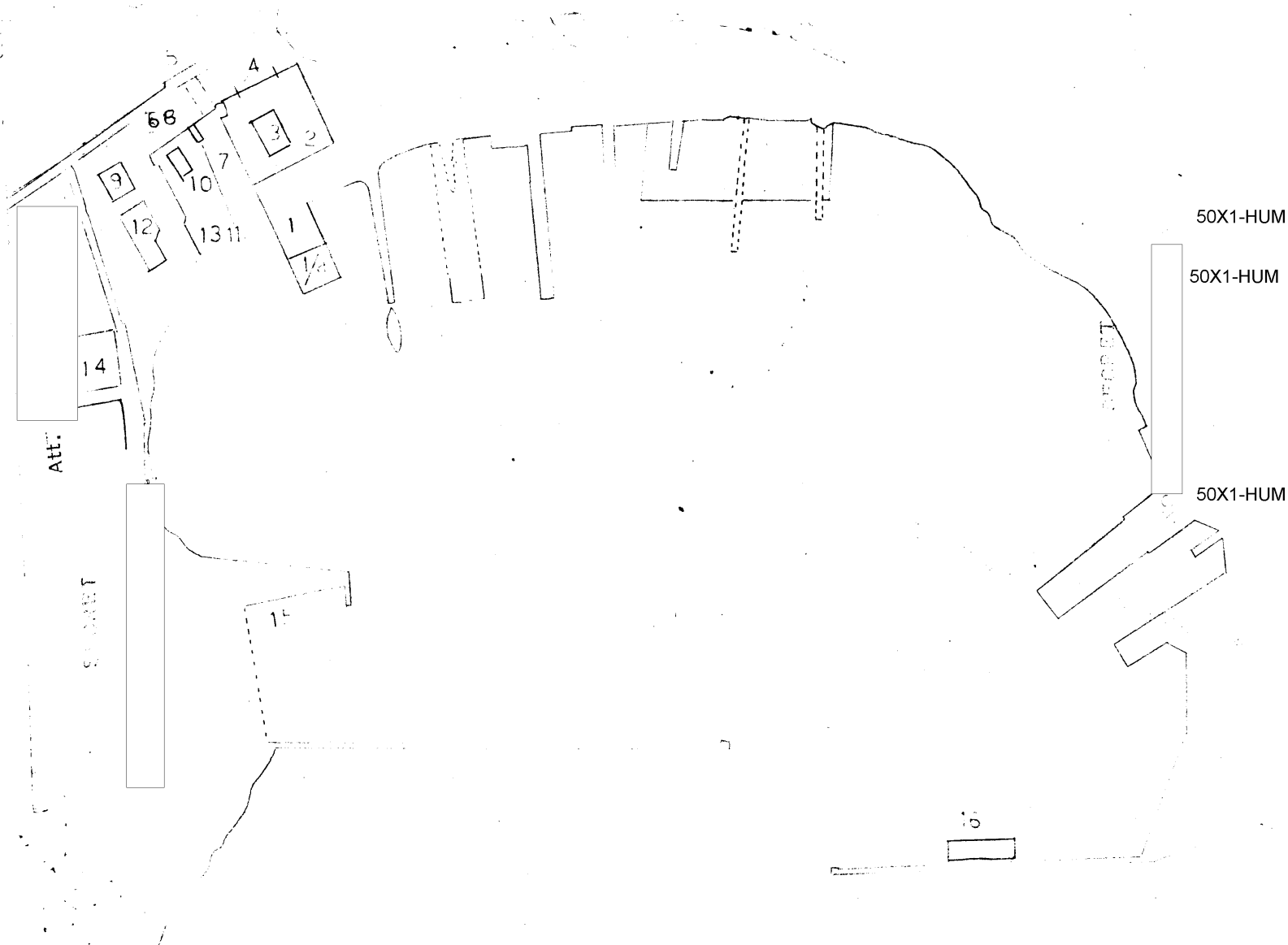
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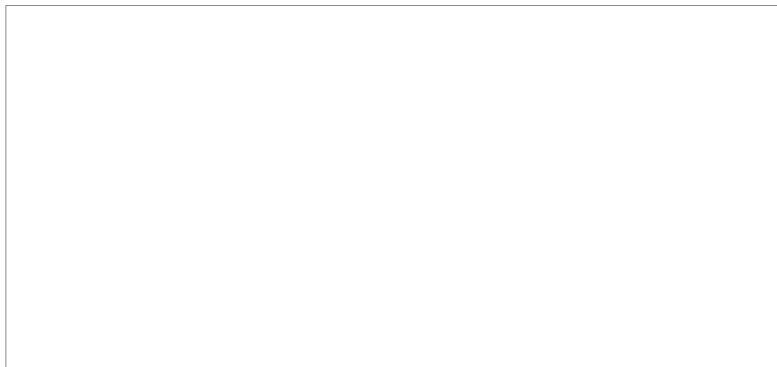


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USSR: PORT OF NOVOSIISK







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Naval Vessels in Port

Three small naval patrol vessels flying Soviet flag at No 1 on Harbor Drawing. 

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Merchant Vessels in Port



 steamship  arrived  sailed
 with 3,396 cubic meters of lumber; berthed at
No 2 on drawing.

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Seven Soviet motor fishingboats at No 3 on drawing; boats had fishing gear visible on deck.

 tanker  loading;
at No 4 on drawing.

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 tanker  loading; at No 5 on drawing.

A tanker used to lengthen the petroleum pier; No 6 on drawing.

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Att. [redacted]

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[redacted]
Military Zone, Port Installations, etc.

A 1,000-ton floating drydock with a harbor tug pulled up; at
A on drawing.

A 20,000-ton floating drydock at B on drawing; [redacted]

[redacted] Soviet tankers of 14,000-16,000 tons are repaired in this
drydock.

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A refrigerated warehouse for fish at C on drawing.

The lengthening of the pier, shown by broken lines on the drawing,
is now in progress. [redacted] reinforced concrete pilings
are sunk until 2 meters above water and reinforced concrete slabs
are placed on the pilings. The slabs are ready on the pier.

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Miscellaneous

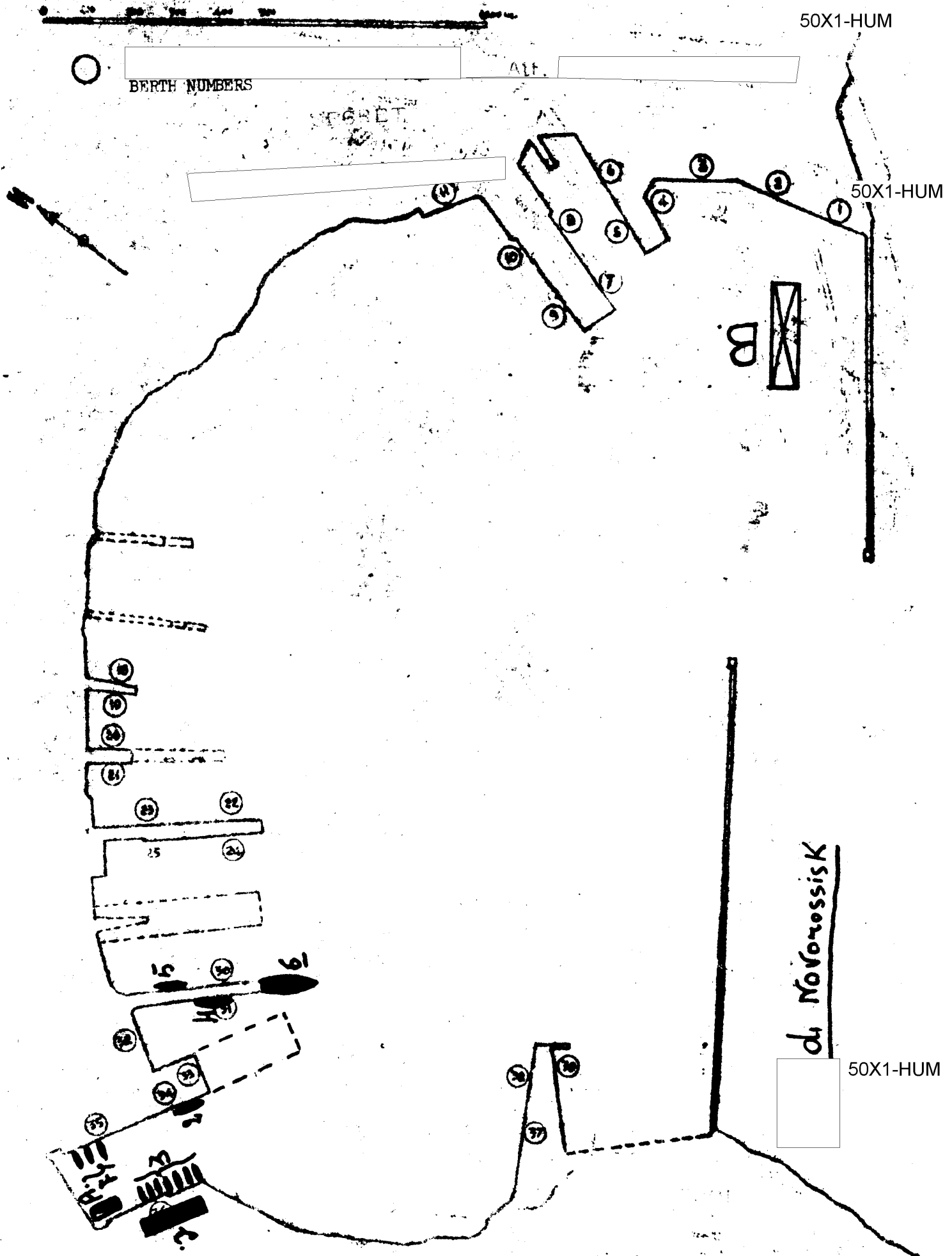
[redacted]
[redacted] The daily pay of 20 rubles is sufficient
only for food and clothing.

[redacted] people
[redacted] most of these young /are not Communists but Socialists, and they
stress this point.

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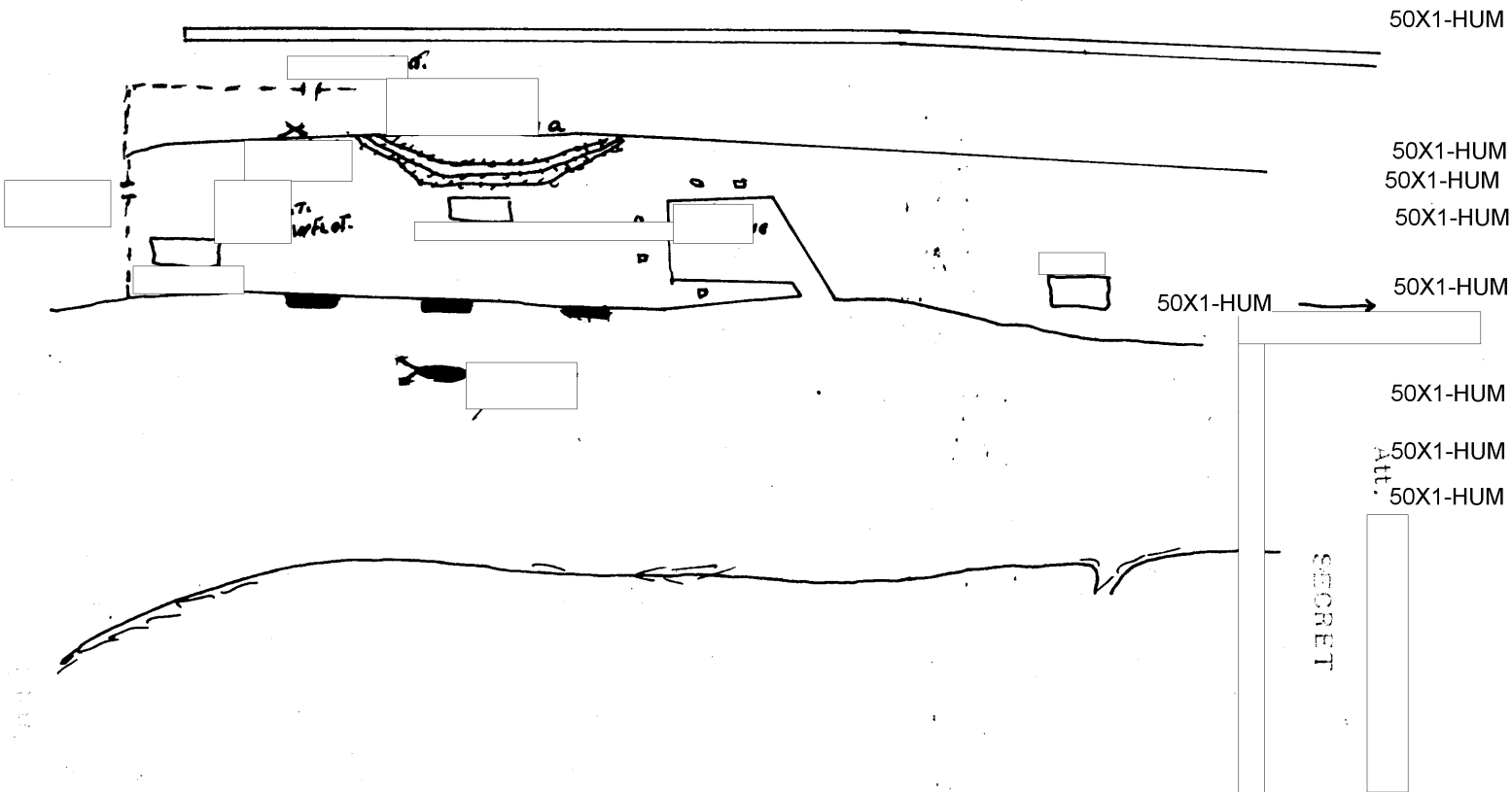
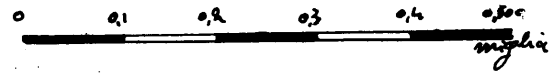
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Att. No. 5

COUNTRY: USSR

SUBJECT: Port Report - Novorossisk

DATE OF REPORT: 4 December 1959

Naval

1. a.

a vessel entered the naval harbor in

Novorossisk.

Description:

The length of the vessel

was about 150 feet, and she was a flush-decker with a spring on the deck; she had a rounded bow and square stern. There was a shield or turret on the fore deck with three guns. The gun barrels and turret were covered with tarpaulin, but it could be concluded from the shape of the tarpaulin that the guns were of small caliber, probably not much larger than Oerlikon machine-guns. There was a square and comparatively low bridge structure, with a pole-mast aft of the bridge, and antenna equipment at the top. There was a comparatively high "tower" on the after-deck. The "tower" appeared to be constructed of angle-irons, was conically shaped, and ended in a completely flat platform at the top.

there was no visible equipment mounted on the tower, neither antennas or radar-scanners, but the whole construction seemed unfinished. The gun-tower or shield covered with tarpaulin, with three guns, on the after-deck, appeared to be exactly like that on the fore deck.

(See sketch no. 1).

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b. [redacted] a vessel of the same type and with the same angle-iron "tower" entered the naval harbor.

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Att. [redacted]

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Comment: The [redacted] report, with sketch, is attached.

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COUNTRY: USSR

SUBJECT: Port Report - Novorossisk.

DATE OF REPORT: 4 December 1959

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Naval

1. a. [redacted] a naval vessel was observed in the harbor at Novorossisk. The vessel was bunkering from a lighter.

Description: The vessel [redacted] was a flush-decker with a definite spring of the deck, square stern, gun-turret on the forward deck, one, possibly two guns, aft of which was a gun-mount with still another gun turret or shield, with one gun, a large bridge structure, on the top of which was a large, ball-shaped construction, and forward of this, a horizontal arm that was bent downwards and shaped like a horn at the end; there was a mast with a lot of antenna equipment, a smokestack, torpedo-gun on which the number of barrels could not be determined, a gun-mount on the after-deck, but the equipment on the mount could not be identified or described in detail; a gun turret on the after-deck with one, possibly two guns. (See sketch no. 1).

2. Also [redacted] four naval vessels were observed in the naval harbor.

Descriptions: One of the ships had [redacted] one gun in a shield on the forward deck, a bridge superstructure with a frame aft, and on top of this

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Att. [redacted]

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was a large antenna or a scanner; there was a pole-mast aft of the bridge with something that resembled a direction-finder on a horizontal arm aft, two shields, each with a small gun, one after the other on the center line of the stern deck, some cylindrical objects that resembled deep-water bombs aft on the after-deck. (See sketch no. 2).

The other three vessels were smaller and appeared to be quite similar to each other. [redacted] They lay partially concealed in back of other vessels.

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[redacted] Comment: The [redacted] report is attached, with sketches.

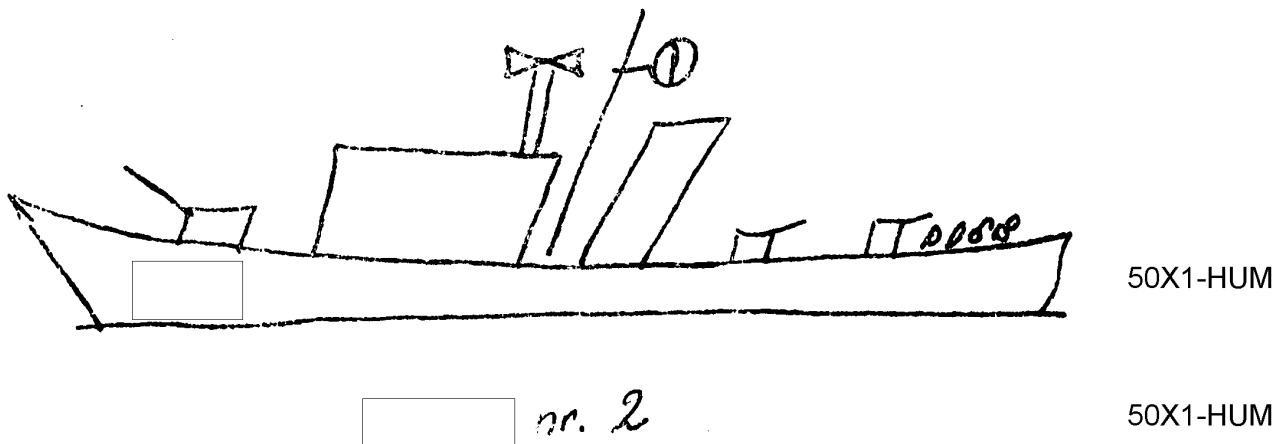
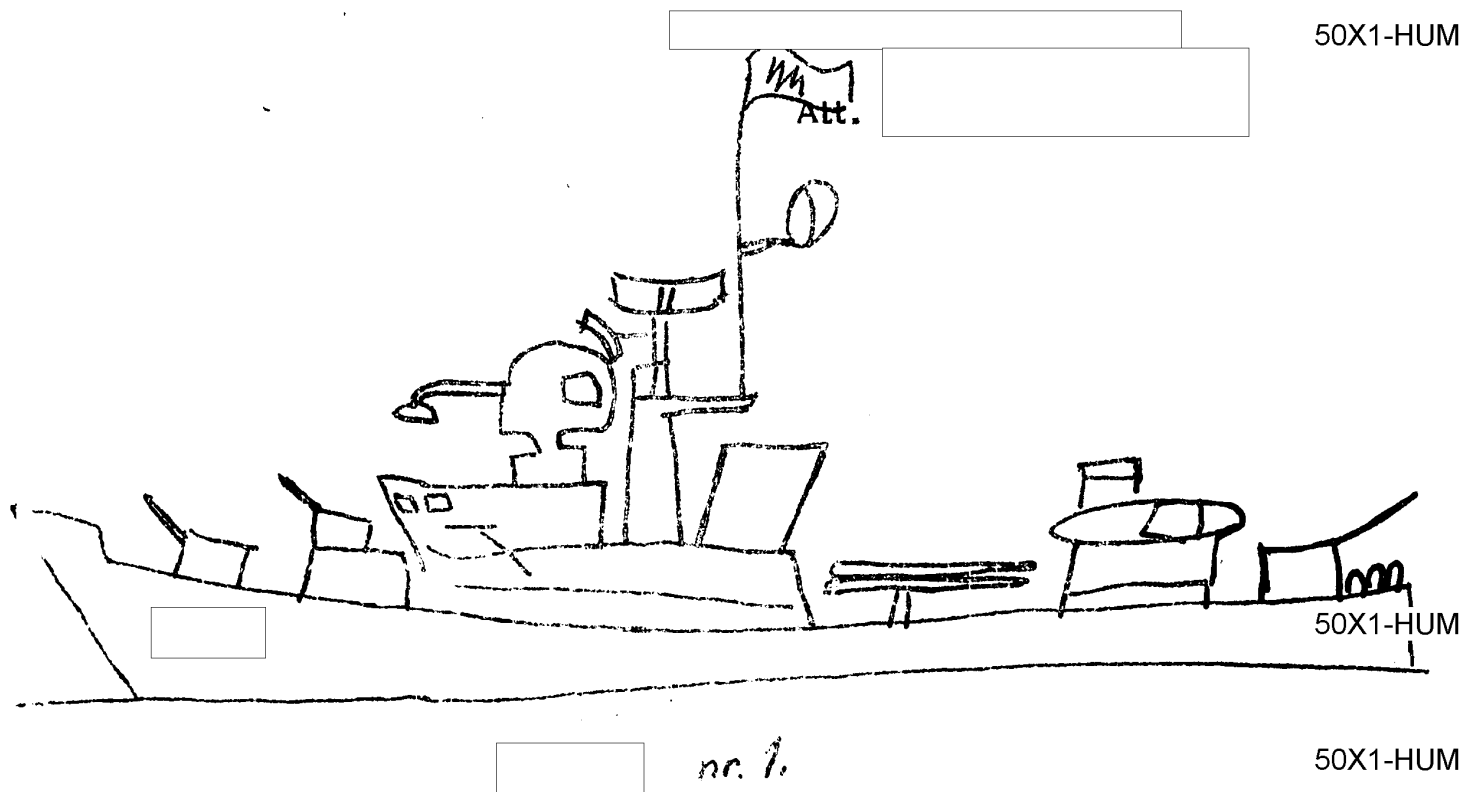
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SECRET**SECRET**SECRETNaval/Economic Att.Russian Warships at POTI and Port Information

Observations in the following report were made at POTI

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2. Three identical warships were seen in the Naval Repair Yard in the Outer Harbour berthed stern to the wall.

Sea Area Brief

W. [redacted]

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H. Naval Repair Yard POTI

Y. [redacted]

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D. Good visibility

O. Very restricted

F. One large squat funnel

I. [redacted] one unknown.

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L. Not known

M. One tripod mast between bridge and funnel

S. High flared bow, flush deck.

T. One twin turret right forrard and another above and abaft it. After part of vessels could not be seen.

A. Not known.

R. Various radar arrays on mast.

S. A large kidney shaped object mounted above the bridge which appeared able to rotate.

3. A naval vessel was seen covered in red lead in the dry dock in the inner basin, a similar vessel was berthed alongside the vessels described in para 2 and a third was acting as guardship at the entrance to POTI

Harbour. [redacted] identified these vessels [redacted] as T 43 Minesweepers.

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4. In the Repair Yard at the eastern end of the Inner Basin the following vessels were seen berthed stern to the wall.

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- a) Three warships as described in para 2.
- b) One cable ship on the southern side of the floating dock.
- c) One fast motor torpedo boat.

5. Two floating cranes were seen in the harbour, one with a very heavy lift and a short swing and one with a very heavy lift and a long swing.

6. Twenty seaplanes

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were seen taking off and landing continuously from a position somewhere to the North East of the Inner Basin at a distance of about 1500 yards. twin-engined monoseaplanes.

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SECRETU.S.S.R.NAVALRussian Warships in Port Harbour

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1. All observations in this report were made

2. Sea Area Brief.

W. [REDACTED]

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H. Two in naval repair yard and one anchored in outer harbour.

Y. No. 3 berth Inner Basin Yard.

D. Good visibility.

O. Perfect freedom from ship only.

F. Single funnel placed well aft.

I. [REDACTED] and one obscured.

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L. About 200 to 250 ft. estimated.

M. Tripod rising from Bridge.

S. Break under bridge and further break well aft.

T. One single gun turret forward. Pom poms on either side of bridge and single gun turret aft.

A. None observed.

R. Three scanners situated on Mast (See Sketch 1.)

S. None.

2.

W. [REDACTED]

50X1-HUM

H. Two in Naval Repair Yard and one stern to wall in Inner Basin Yard.

Y. No. 3 Berth Inner Basin.

D. Good visibility.

O. [REDACTED]

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F. One squat raked funnel aft of mast and bridge.

I. [REDACTED] and one covered in red lead appeared to be of new construction.

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L. About 260 to 300 feet estimated.

M. One tripod just aft of funnel.

S. Flush deck. High flared bow.

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[REDACTED]
Att. [REDACTED]

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T. Two single gun turrets forward.. one single gun turret aft.

A. None observed.

R. One mast (See Sketch 2.)

S. None.

3. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] identified those mentioned in Paragraph 1 as T43 Minewweepers

and those mentioned in Paragraph 2 as Riga class escort vessels.

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[REDACTED]
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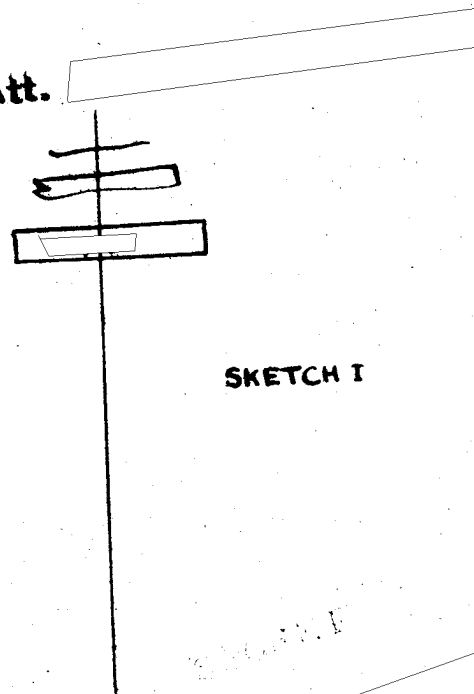
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SKETCH I

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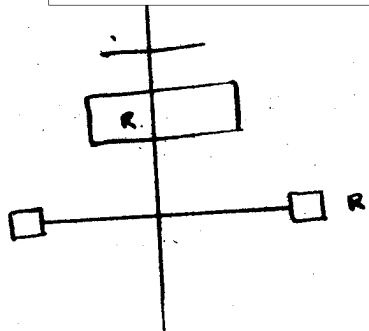
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SKETCH 2.

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